

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for lowering a risk factor in a patient, comprising

~~identifying that said patient suffers from said risk factor and~~

administering to said patient an effective amount of a licorice extract which is water-insoluble and free from glycyrrhizinic acid, thereby lowering said risk factor, wherein said risk factor is selected from the group consisting of blood pressure, blood glucose concentration, LDL (low-density lipoprotein) susceptibility to retention, LDL susceptibility to aggregation, blood total cholesterol and LDL levels, and blood triglycerides and VLDL (very low-density lipoprotein) concentration.

2. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said risk factor is selected from the group consisting of blood pressure, blood glucose concentration, serum LDL susceptibility to aggregation and serum LDL susceptibility to retention.

3. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said risk factor is selected from the group consisting of blood pressure and glucose concentration.

4. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said risk factor is selected from the group consisting of LDL susceptibility to aggregation and LDL susceptibility to retention.

5. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said risk factor is blood glucose concentration.

6. (Currently Amended) A method for treating inflammation in a patient, comprising

(a) identifying that said patient suffers from inflammation; and

(b) administering to said patient an effective amount of a licorice extract which is water-insoluble and free from glycyrrhizinic acid, thereby treating said inflammation.

7. (Currently Amended) A method for simultaneously lowering at least two risk factors in a patient, comprising

(a) identifying that said patient suffers from said at least two risk factors; and

(b) administering to said patient an effective amount of a licorice extract which is water-insoluble and free from glycyrrhizinic acid, thereby lowering said at least two risk factors; wherein each of said at least two risk factors is selected from the group consisting of blood pressure, blood glucose concentration, LDL (low-density lipoprotein) susceptibility to retention, LDL susceptibility to aggregation, blood total cholesterol and LDL levels, and blood triglycerides and VLDL (very low-density lipoprotein) concentration.

8. (Currently Amended) A method for treating a patient suffering from high blood triglycerides and high LDL (low-density lipoprotein) levels without decreasing the HDL (high density lipoprotein) level of said patient, comprising

(a) identifying that said patient suffers from high blood triglycerides and high LDL levels; and

(b) administering to said patient an effective amount of a licorice extract which is water-insoluble and free from glycyrrhizinic acid, thereby treating the high blood triglycerides and high LDL levels without decreasing the HDL level of said patient.

9. (Currently Amended) A method for treating a patient suffering from a condition, comprising:

(a) identifying that said patient suffers from said condition; and

(b) administering to said patient an effective amount of a licorice extract which is water-insoluble and free from glycyrrhizinic acid, thereby treating said condition, wherein said condition is selected from the group consisting of atherosclerotic diseases, hypertension, cardiovascular diseases, chronic renal failure, carotid artery stenosis, coronary heart diseases, hypercholesterolemia, and hypertriglyceridemia.

10. (Currently Amended) A method for preventing a patient from suffering from a condition, comprising:

(a) identifying that said patient is in a high risk to suffer from said condition; and

(b) administering to said patient an effective amount of a licorice extract which is water-insoluble and free from glycyrrhizinic acid, thereby preventing said patient from suffering from said condition, wherein said condition is selected from the group consisting of atherosclerotic disease, hypertension, cardiovascular diseases, chronic renal failure, carotid artery

stenosis, coronary heart diseases, hypercholesterolemia, and hypertriglyceridemia.

11. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said licorice extract is an ethanolic extract.

12. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 6, wherein said licorice extract is an ethanolic extract.

13. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 7, wherein said licorice extract is an ethanolic extract.

14. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 8, wherein said licorice extract is an ethanolic extract.

15. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 9, wherein said licorice extract is an ethanolic extract.

16. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 10, wherein said licorice extract is an ethanolic extract.

17. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said licorice extract dissolves in ethanol.

18. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 6,
wherein said licorice extract dissolves in ethanol.

19. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 7,
wherein said licorice extract dissolves in ethanol.

20. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 8,
wherein said licorice extract dissolves in ethanol.

21. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 9,
wherein said licorice extract dissolves in ethanol.

22. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 10,
wherein said licorice extract dissolves in ethanol.